



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL:

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RHODE ISLAND QUARTER SUGGESTIONS BEING "COINED"

INDEPENDENT MAN, NEWPORT MANSIONS TOP LIST OF CONCEPTS BY RHODE ISLAND
CITIZENS

(Providence, RI) -- Rhode Islanders of all ages are beginning to submit their ideas for what should appear on the back of the Rhode Island quarter, the state's collaboration with the U.S. Mint on a quarter dollar honoring Rhode Island to be released in 2001. Design ideas ranging from the Independent Man to images of Slater Mill are part of the first week's submissions to the Governor's Office and State Arts Council.

A Warwick woman writes: "I think that we should consider putting a lighthouse on the new quarter to represent RI. We could even have a contest in the state for everyone to vote on which lighthouse they would like to see on the coin. My favorite would be the Goat Island lighthouse with the Newport bridge in the background. I should also note that the first lighthouse ever built was put on Greek and Roman coins. If was good enough for the Greeks and Romans then why not for Rhode Islanders?"

A Pawtucket man contributes the following idea: "The beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Pawtucket sparked this country's early growth. The well preserved site of Samuel Slater's mill on the banks of the historic Blackstone River would be an ideal symbol of Rhode Island's contribution to our country's greatness."

A man from Lincoln writes: "I submit that the Independent Man who is atop our state house should be the image used on the back of the Rhode Island quarter. When the Independent Man was taken down for refurbishment some years ago and was displayed at the then Midland Mall in Warwick I found it to be a truly awe inspiring work of art."

Rhode Islanders of all ages are encouraged to submit their design concepts. Ideas can be submitted to the Governor's Office via mail, email or fax. Citizens can mail their suggestions to Coin Project, c/o Governor's Office, State House, Providence, RI 02903. Fax submissions can be sent to (401) 222-2055, and email submissions can be sent to coin@risca.state.ri.us. The deadline for submissions is May 14, 1999.

The State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Mint are collaborating on the Fifty States Commemorative Coin Project, a unique and historically compelling ten-year celebration of the 50 States. A series of five quarter dollars with new reverses will be issued each year from 1999 through 2008 celebrating each of the 50 states of the Union. Signed by President Clinton on December 1, 1997, the 50 State Quarters Program Act provides for the redesign of the reverse side of the quarter dollars with designs emblematic of each of the 50 States. The coins will be issued in the sequence that the states became part of the United States of America. Rhode Island, the thirteenth state to enter the Union, will be celebrated in 2001.

Governor Almond has designated the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts as the agency to organize the process of selecting the Rhode Island design concepts. The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts is a state agency, supported by appropriations from the Rhode Island General Assembly and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. RISCA provides grants, technical assistance and staff support to arts organizations and artists, schools, community centers, social service organizations and local governments to bring the arts into the lives of Rhode Islanders.

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